

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 322 - SB 1210

March 8, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires school bus drivers to complete a school bus driver training program based on standards established by the Departments of Education (DOE) and Safety (DOS). Requires each local education agency (LEA), charter school, and charter management organization to appoint a transportation supervisor for the district or school. Requires each transportation supervisor to complete a student transportation management training program developed jointly by the DOS and the DOE upon being appointed and, thereafter, including a minimum of four (4) hours of annual training.

Requires local boards of education to adopt a transportation policy relative to the safe transport of students. The policy must include: (1) A procedure for students, parents, teachers and staff, and the community to report school bus safety complaints; (2) A procedure for the transportation supervisor to investigate any complaint of a safety violation or concern; (3) A requirement that each school bus serving the district or charter school be equipped with the phone number for reporting complaints on the rear bumper; (4) A process to provide annual notice to students and parents regarding the process for reporting complaints; and (5) A policy or procedure for the collection and maintenance of the following records: (A) Bus maintenance and inspections; (B) Bus driver credentials, including required background checks, health records, and performance reviews; (C) Driver training records; and (D) Complaints received and any records related to the investigation of those complaints.

Requires the DOE to develop and deliver, in collaboration with the DOS, (1) a student transportation management training program; (2) a system for monitoring district and charter school compliance with all applicable state and federal laws regarding student transportation services; and (3) prepare and annually update and disseminate guidelines on best practices for the management of student transportation services. Increases the minimum age for a class S driver's license endorsement to 25.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$350,000

The Governor's Recommended Budget Document for FY17-18, on page B-209, recognizes a recurring increase in state expenditures from the General Fund of \$350,000.

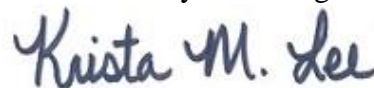
Assumptions:

HB 322 - SB 1210

- The Governor's FY17-18 budget has appropriated \$350,000 in recurring funds to provide for school transportation personnel training and monitoring.
- The DOS, in conjunction with the DOE will require two new staff positions for student transportation training management consisting of a Program Manager position at a salary of \$80,000, benefits of \$20,198, and travel and overhead costs of \$27,000, as well as a Program Monitor position at a salary of \$55,000, benefits of \$16,051, and travel and overhead costs of \$27,000, plus one-time state expenditures of \$3,000 for two computers and software at \$1,500 each.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures for personnel is estimated to be \$225,249 $[(\$80,000 + \$20,198 + \$55,000 + \$16,051 + (\$27,000 \times 2))]$.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures for computers and software is estimated to be \$3,000 $(\$1,500 \times 2)$.
- Based on information from the Department of Education (DOE) the difference between the personnel costs (both one-time and recurring) and the recurring budgeted amount of \$350,000 proposed in the Governor's recommended budget will be expended for training purposes exclusively.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures for trainings is estimated to be \$121,751 $(\$350,000 - \$225,249 - \$3,000)$ in FY17-18; and is estimated to be \$124,751 $(\$350,000 - \$225,249)$ in FY18-19 and subsequent years.
- The total increase in state expenditures for FY17-18 is estimated to be \$350,000, consisting of \$225,249 for personnel costs, \$3,000 for computer costs, and \$121,751 for training costs.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures beginning in FY18-19 is estimated to be \$350,000, consisting of \$225,249 for personnel costs and \$124,751 for training costs.
- Existing LEA employees will serve as transportation supervisors; therefore any expenditures to appoint existing local employees to this position will be not significant.
- Based on information from the Comptroller of the Treasury, it is assumed that LEAs already have existing methods to investigate school bus safety complaints.
- The fiscal impact of additional record-keeping requirements for LEAs is estimated to be not significant.
- Expenditures related to training for LEA transportation supervisors will be paid for by the DOE pursuant to the funding made available for training purposes; therefore, any expenditures for LEAs related to such training will be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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